

# The Independent

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## THE INDEPENDENT

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DANIEL LOGAN, Editor.

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### ASHFORD WRITES.

He Believes V. V. Was Ill-Treated.

The following letter from Clarence W. Ashford, a Hawaiian exile, now in this city, throws some light upon the manner in which the Government of the Islands is treating political prisoners.

Editor of the Evening Post: In your issue of Saturday evening appears a letter from a correspondent at Honolulu, which one of your evening contemporaries also prints, in which an effort is made to clear the Hawaiian Government of the imputation of cruelty in its treatment of my brother, Volney V. Ashford, during his recent restraint there as a political prisoner. The untruths in your correspondent's account are so glaring that I crave space to refute some of them. I quote his words, as follows:

"Ashford had been suffering from an affection of the spine, which, unless he went to a different climate for treatment, must sooner or later result fatally. During his confinement he had not been treated as a prisoner, except that he was kept under surveillance. Every attention had been paid him so far as food and medical attention were concerned."

Waiving the fact that my brother was too ill before, and at the time of the late alleged "rebellion" to have taken any part in it, I assert that, from the time of his arrest he has been kept as close a prisoner as any within the walls of Honolulu's coral hell. That he was not locked in a 5x8-foot cell to sweat his life out was because he was too ill to admit of such confinement, so he was kept in the hospital ward. Up to the time of his trial and sentence for misprision of treason he was permitted to receive the attentions of his own physician upon his paying for it. But for that time onward he was denied that privilege, although his ailment was constantly becoming more serious. \* \* \* \* \*

I was a fellow prisoner with my brother for seven weeks, and during the succeeding fortnight I saw him almost daily. I therefore speak from personal observation and direct knowledge, up to the date of my departure from Honolulu last month. After my release I was called by telephone to the prison by the humane and obliging jailor, Mr. Low, who informed me that my brother was worse and wanted to see me. After conferring with the latter as to the means of securing for him medical aid, and convincing myself there was no use in appealing to any of the governmental understrappers, I telephoned direct to Mr. Dole, early on a Sunday morning, reminding him that the prison physician was not such a practitioner as he or any member of the Government would call to his house professionally, telling him my brother was desperately ill, and needed his physician, in whose professional skill and acquaintance with his case he had confidence. Mr. Dole is a most amiable man—in his conversation—and promised faithfully to use his influence to correct the conditions complained of. At my urgent request he promised to put the telephone into immediate service to that end, but at noon of the day following my brother was still suffering and without medical aid, for he declined to be experimented upon by the prison surgeon. I then learned and afterward had occa-

sion to confirm, viz., that Mr. Dole has very little influence in the Hawaiian Government. It would be a better government if he had more influence.

Thereafter for about ten days my brother, though still very ill, was denied his physician, except that the latter was permitted once to call and consult with the prison surgeon upon the case. Before leaving Honolulu, and believing that the political opinions of my brother's physician (opposed to the Government) might be the cause of the arbitrary deprivation mentioned, I agreed with a clever practitioner in the Government camp that he should endeavor to secure professional access to the sufferer. All my information since departure, up to which time my plan had not succeeded, shows that the same course of deprivation and refusal of competent medical attendance to my brother has since been followed. Yielding to the severity of his illness and the prison discipline, against which his enfeebled condition made it impossible for him to longer contend, the sufferer submitted to the experiments of the official doctor. As a result he was at one prostrated with alarming symptoms, which were later learned to have resulted from the experimental practitioner's efforts to "see how much strychnine he (the patient) could stand."

Fearful of being slowly, perhaps rapidly poisoned, or otherwise sent out of prison by the cemetery, my brother submitted to the further submission to the delicate attentions of the Government to his health, my brother has, as I learn, accepted the alternative of agreeing to leave the country in return for a release from prison. But when the day of release came he was too ill to stand, and had to be carried to the Queen's hospital, where, under the care of a competent physician, he is slowly mending, though still unable to travel. His life will doubtless be much abbreviated as a result of his imprisonment—all for his opinions as to what constitutes a republic.

My brother has been from his birth a British subject, being a native of Canada. But his foreign allegiance did not prevent his joining the army that was battling for the Union, when he was scarcely more than a child, and he upheld the flag of the Union on many a field of blood. Nursed in doctrines of liberty and free and popular government, he contemned the family compact despotism which Messrs. Dole & Co. sought to conceal beneath a republican label. For his temerity in that respect he was prescribed by the ruling faction. The outcropping of an insignificant arms-smuggling enterprise afforded a pretext or a resort to that vague something labeled martial law; a military commission, none of whom were lawyers, and only two of whom were attorneys, while all were pliant and prejudiced, usurped the functions of the civil courts; the fundamental right of the Anglo-Saxon—a trial by jury—was calmly abrogated by the "republican" government, and the commission responded to the "duty" of crowding the prison with the indiscreet critics of the dominant clique, my unfortunate brother being one of the victims. There he was even denied the privilege of being furnished with sweet milk from my home, though his physician ordered that diet, and the prison did not afford. Yet your most truthful correspondent says "every attention has been paid him so far as food and medical attention were concerned."

CLARENCE W. ASHFORD.  
San Francisco, April 20, 1895.  
S. F. Post.

### SMALL POINTERS.

For the Home Circle

One of the healthiest vegetable, if not the healthiest, grown is the onion; yet, strange to say, but few people use it as liberally as they should. Boiled onions, used frequently in a family of children, will ward off many of the diseases to which the little ones are subject. The principal objection to the promiscuous use of this vegetable is that the odor exhaled after eating is so offensive. A cup of strong coffee taken immediately after eating is claimed to be excellent in counteracting this effect. Although for a day or so after eating onions the breath may have a disagreeable odor, yet after this time it will be much sweeter than before.

A cough syrup in which onions form an important part is made by taking one cup of vinegar, one cup of treacle and half a cup of cut-up onions. Put on the stove and simmer half an hour, or until the onions are soft. Then remove and strain. Take a teaspoonful of this frequently when troubled with a cough, and unless very deep seated the cough will not last long.

Now that silverware is being offered for sale at such unusually low prices—manufactured articles can be bought at less than their equivalent weight in silver dollars, it is asserted—it seems an excellent time to buy a German chest of the silver chest to come into more general favor.

Many American families have already borrowed the fashion, and a silver chest is bought for each little daughter before her christening day.

Friends soon come to know that single spoons or other pieces are acceptable gifts for the little maid, and each birthday, each Christmas or Eastertide swell the contents of the silver chest. Everything goes into the chest, and nothing comes out, no matter what pressure may be brought to bear, until the wedding-day arrives. Then the little maid who has treasured her gifts with true housewifely care is sure to find herself possessed of a most comfortable little outfit of silverware to carry to her new home and table.

Wicks should be held to the fire and thoroughly dried before being used. They absorb a great deal of moisture, and if not so treated previously, the flow of oil is impeded. Another plan is to steep the wick in vinegar and then dry thoroughly before using. This prevents smoking. Then again, in some oils there is a certain amount of sediment which sinks to the bottom of the reservoir and settles on that part of the wick which lies there. The oil will not flow in a dirty wick. When there is not a good flow of oil a good light cannot be obtained. Wicks which have become foul may be cleansed by washing, or boiling in soft water and soap, then rinsed and dried. The lamp reservoir should be kept filled; if the oil becomes low the flow of oil is imperfect, and the wick in consequence is charred. This gives only a poor light and emits a disagreeable odor.

Grease spots may be removed from wall paper by putting clean blotting paper over them and pressing it with a hot flatiron.

Babies' skirts are not made too long, and delicate babies are even spared the torment of being dressed at all for the first two weeks. They are, instead, wrapped in great squares of softest wool, and are left to a nearly absolute quiet as is pos-

sible. And even when the child is dressed it is for comfort only, and no longer for exhibition purposes. Modern babies are taught to cultivate repose of manner, and comfort of body is the first necessity for the required condition of mind.

There are so many smokers in the world that any new recipe for cleaning pipes is sure to find readers. A shallow cork, or still better a rubber stopper, through which a hole is bored large enough to enable it to fit tightly on the nozzle of a soda-water siphon, is fitted into the bowl. The nozzle is inserted, the mouthpiece directed into a vessel, about a wineglass of soda forced through and the pipe is clean.

Jas. F. Morgan.

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